REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 20-31 are pending in this application, Claims 3 and 16-19 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 1-15 and 20-29 having been amended by the present Amendment, and new Claims 30 and 31 having been added. Support for amended Claims 1-15 and 20-29 and new Claims 30 and 31 can be found, for example, in the original claims, drawings, and specification as originally filed.[1] Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101; Claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1, 2, 7, 10-12, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hatae et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0193948; hereinafter "Hatae") further in view of Fukuhara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,127,111; hereinafter "Fukuhara") and Long (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,424); and Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hatae, Fukuhara, Long, in view of Delean (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,640).

In response to the rejection of Claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §101, Applicant has amended Claim 12 to recite "a computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions which when executed by a computer cause a processor to execute a method." MPEP 2106 IV.B.1(a) states that:

> A claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory.

[1] See original Claim 3; and page 5, lines 14-23 , page 30, lines 3-16, and page 28, line 19 to page 30, line 16.

In view of the presently submitted claim amendments and foregoing comments Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 12-15 define statutory subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended the claims to correct the informalities set forth in the outstanding Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In response to the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 7, 10-12, 15, 16, 19, 20, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hatae in view of Fukuhara and Long, and Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 recites novel features clearly not taught nor rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing system including, *inter alia*:

> ...an editing part configured to perform an editing operation on a non-reversible code image obtained from decoding the non-reversible code, to store the editing operation, and to apply the editing operation to the reversible code; ....

Page 7 of the outstanding Office Action, in rejection Claim 3, states that "Delean teaches selecting lossily (i.e. non-reversibly) compressed for displaying and editing purpose(s) and selecting image data that is not non-reversibly compressed for transmission to an external apparatus, as well as using lossless (i.e., reversible) compression and obtaining the highest quality image for the final output."

However, Delean fails to teach or suggest "an editing part configured to perform an editing operation on a non-reversible code image obtained from decoding the non-reversible

code, to store the editing operation, and ***to apply the editing operation to the reversible code***," as recited in Applicant's amended independent Claim 1.

Delean describes that a "compressed image may be used during the screen editing step, where the quality of a lossy compressed image may be perfectly acceptable. In order to obtain the highest quality image for final output, however, the user may choose to use the full image in the uncompressed IVUE format during the FITS RIP (functional interpolating transformation system raster image processing)."[2] Thus, Delean merely describes that editing can be performed on a compressed image, and that a user can also use a high-resolution image while editing. In contrast, in Applicant's Claim 1, an editing part is configured to perform ***an editing operation on a non-reversible code image obtained from decoding non-reversible code***, to store the editing operation, and ***to apply the editing operation to the reversible code***.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 (and all claims depending thereon) patentably distinguishes over Delean.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Hatae, Fukuhara, and Long fail to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Delean.

Amended independent Claim 7 recites "an editing part configured to perform an editing operation on a non-reversible code image obtained from decoding the non-reversible code, to store the editing operation, and to apply the editing operation to the reversible code." Thus, independent Claim 7 (and all claims depending thereon) are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Amended independent Claims 12, 20, and 24 recite "performing an editing operation on a non-reversible code image obtained from decoding the non-reversible code; storing the editing operation; applying the editing operation to the reversible code." Thus, independent

[2] See Delean at column 8, lines 54-62.

Claims 12, 20, and 24 (and all claims depending thereon) are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

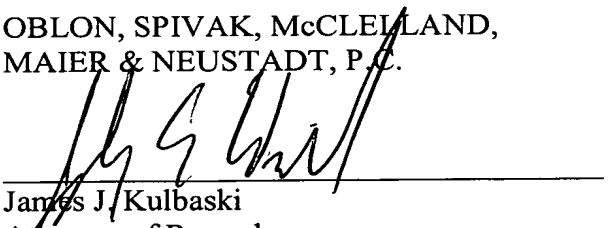
In order to vary the scope of protection recited in the claims, new Claims 30 and 31 are added. New Claims 30 and 31 find non-limiting support in the disclosure as originally filed, for example at page 30, lines 3-16 and page 5, lines 14-23.

Therefore, the changes to the claims are not believed to raise a question of new matter.[3] New Claims 30 and 31 are dependent on Claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, and in light of the above discussion, the pending claims as presented herewith are believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Joseph E. Wrkich
Registration No. 53,796

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)
DPB/rac
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[3] See MPEP 2163.06 stating that "information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter."